

In re Patent Application of:
FABIAN HAISCHMANN et al.
Serial No. **10/623,279**
Filing Date: **7/18/2003**

In the Claims:

Please enter the following amended claim set:

1. (Currently amended) A device for rinsing a body cavity with a fluid comprising:

a rinse pump ~~for introducing~~ operative to introduce fluid into a body cavity;

a pressure sensor on a pressure side of the rinse pump;

means for inserting a medical instrument into the body cavity, the medical instrument comprising means for establishing fluid communication with the body cavity;

a suction pump in fluid communication along a first pathway with the fluid communication establishing means and along a second pathway with the body cavity;

means for controlling fluid flow along the second pathway; and

a control unit in signal communication with the rinse pump, the pressure sensor, the suction pump, and the fluid flow controlling means, for receiving pressure values from the pressure sensor and for controlling the rinse pump, the suction pump, and the fluid flow controlling means in response to the received pressure values, operative to control fluid flow through the body cavity depending on received pressure changes caused by changes in an operating condition of the medical instrument according to a preset volume flow of at least one of the rinse pump and the suction pump and according to a predetermined required pressure.

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2. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, further comprising a storage container in fluid communication with an inlet side of the rinse pump, for supplying the fluid to be introduced into the body cavity.

3. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the medical instrument comprises a second medical instrument, and further comprising a first medical instrument in fluid communication with the rinse pump for introducing the fluid into the body cavity therefrom.

4. (New) The device recited in Claim 3, the first medical instrument is selected from a group consisting of a rinse probe, a trocar and an optical system, and an optical system, rinse channel, and rinse cannula.

5. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the second pathway comprises a drainage cannula insertable into the body cavity and a drainage line in fluid communication with an outlet of the drainage cannula and with the fluid flow controlling means.

6. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the medical instrument has an "on" and an "off" operating condition.

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7. (New) The device recited in Claim 6, wherein the medical instrument further has a "high" and a "low" volume flow depending on the operating condition.

8. (New) The device recited in Claim 7, wherein, when the medical instrument has an "on" operating condition, the volume flow is "high," and, when the medical instrument has an "off" operating condition, the volume flow is "low."

9. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the rinse pump comprises a drive unit having a motor having a rotating driven shaft and a pump unit, a feed capacity of the rinse pump controllable by varying the speed of the motor.

10. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the rinse pump comprises an elastic storage container and a controllable pressure cuff at least partially surrounding the storage container, a feed capacity of the rinse pump controllable by regulation of the pressure cuff.

11. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the rinse pump comprises a height level-variable storage container, a feed capacity of the rinse pump controllable by regulation of the height level of the storage container.

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12. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the medical instrument is selected from a group consisting of a shaver, a sampling device, and a suction probe.

13. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the fluid flow controlling means are operable to control flow along the second pathway in one of the modes of proportionally, continuously, or in a multitude of discrete steps.

14. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, wherein the fluid flow controlling means comprises a hose clamping device comprising a hose having a wall at least partially comprising an elastic material, a support surface for supporting the hose thereupon, and a pressure piece positioned on an opposite side of the hose from the support surface, the pressure piece drivable toward and away from the support surface for exerting and decreasing pressure on the elastic portion of the hose wall.

15. (New) The device recited in Claim 14, wherein the pressure piece is substantially linearly drivable.

16. (New) The device recited in Claim 15, further comprising an electro-motor drive having a spindle gearing connected to the pressure piece.

17. (New) The device recited in Claim 16, wherein the electro-motor drive comprises a stepping motor.

18. (New) The device recited in Claim 1, further comprising a T piece and a first, a second, and a third hose connected to outlets of the T piece, the first pathway comprising the first hose connected to an outlet of the medical instrument, the second pathway comprising the second hose, and the third hose connected to the suction pump.

19. (New) The device recited in Claim 18, further comprising a T piece positive locking cutout having a recess adapted to positively lock the T piece thereinto, the T piece positive locking cutout integrally formed with the fluid flow controlling means.

20. (New) A device for rinsing a body cavity with a fluid comprising:
a rinse pump operative to introduce fluid into a body cavity;
a pressure sensor on a pressure side of the rinse pump;
a medical instrument with means for inserting it into the body cavity, the medical instrument comprising means for establishing fluid communication with the body cavity;

a suction pump in fluid communication along a first pathway with the fluid communication establishing means of the medical instrument and along a second pathway with the body cavity;

means for controlling fluid flow along the second pathway; and

a control unit in signal communication with the rinse pump, the pressure sensor, the suction pump, and the fluid flow controlling means, for receiving pressure values from the pressure sensor and for controlling the rinse pump, the suction pump, and the fluid flow controlling means in response to the received pressure values, operative to control fluid flow through the body cavity depending on received pressure changes caused by changes in an operating condition of the medical instrument according to a preset volume flow of at least one of the rinse pump and the suction pump and according to a predetermined required pressure.

21. (New) A method for rinsing a body cavity comprising the steps of:

inserting a first, and second, and a third medical instrument into a body cavity for establishing fluid communication therewith;

establishing fluid communication between the first medical instrument and a source of rinsing fluid;

establishing fluid communication along a first pathway between the second medical instrument and a source of negative pressure;

establishing fluid communication along a second pathway between the third medical instrument and the source of negative pressure;

sensing a pressure value in the body cavity; and

controlling fluid flow along the second pathway, fluid flow from the source of rinsing fluid, and negative pressure source in response to a change in the sensed pressure value dependent upon an operating condition of the second medical instrument.

22. (New) The method recited in Claim 21, wherein the controlling step is operative based upon a preset volume flow of at least one of the fluid flow from the source of rinsing fluid and a fluid flow volume through the negative pressure source, and further based upon a predetermined desired pressure value.

23. (New) The method recited in Claim 21, wherein the second medical instrument can exist in two operating conditions correlated with a first and a second flow along the second pathway.